get its share. Thus, NTPC, on its part, is paying adequate attention to augment power generation in Andhra Pradesh.

Power reforms

2248. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any scheme to encourage all State Electricity Boards to go on a campaign to install meters at all premises obtaining power without meters;

(b) what are the details of this scheme;

(c) whether any financial assistance will be extended to States like Andhra Pradesh which are in the fore front of power reforms;

(d) has any discussion been held with the Andhra Pradesh State Electricity Board to implement pilot schemes to install meters; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (e) The issue of installing meters at all premises was discussed in the power Ministers' Conference held on 26.2.2000 and the consensus favoured a time bound programme for 100% metering by December, 2001. Government proposes to encourage all SEBs to provide meters under the proposed Accelerated Power Development Programme (APDP). Details of the scheme have not yet been formulated. No specific discussion with any SEBs have taken place.

Transmission and distribution losses of power

2249. SHRI LAJPAT RAI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any assessment of the loss of Power during transmission and distribution during a year;

(b) whether power loss has been on the rise with every passing year;

(c) the estimated power loss from 1998 to 1999;

(d) whether significant part of the transmission and distribution losses are due to pilferage; and

(e) if so, the measures taken or proposed to be taken through out the country to check these transmission and distribution losses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The figures of transmission and distribution losses for the year 1998-99 are not yet available. According to the figures reported by SEBs/EDs/ Power Utilities, the T&D losses during the year 1996-97 and 1997-98 on all India basis were 24.53% and 24.44% (tentative) respectively. However, the States which have undertaken restructuring have reported T&D losses varying from 40 to 51%.

(d) The losses can be classified under two broad categories, namely, technical loss and commercial loss. The technical losses are inherent in the system and can be reduced by better design of lines, relocation of distribution transformers and installation of capacitors. The commercial losses are due to theft of energy, use of defective meters and unmetered supply. The losses due to theft and pilferage are presently, camouflaged under T&D losses.

(e) In order to reduce the transmission & distribution losses, the Central Electricity Authority has issued comprehensive guidelines in July 1991, which, inter-alia provide for the following;

— Up gradation of operating voltages;

— Reducation of length of LT lines;

— Location of transformers near load centres;

— Adoption of low capacity transformers near consumers' pre- mises;

— Installation of shunt capacitors;

— Improvement in construction and operation techniques; and

— Systematic and methodological approach for planning and design of distribution system on a long term basis.

— Conducting energy audit and providing a methodology for segregating technical and commercial losses.

Necessary amendments have been made in the Indian Electricity Act, 1910, to make the theft of electricity a cognizable offence.

Under the Accelerated Power Development Programme, it is proposed to provide funds to the State Governments for implement- ing specific projects for improving the sub-transmission and distribu- tion system including installation of state-of-the-art electronic meter- ing system.

In the Conference of Power Ministers' which was held on 26.2.2000, the State/UT Governments have resolved to undertake energy auditing at all levels

and to install meters for all consumers by December, 2001. With the adoption of these measures, it will be possible to substantially reduce losses arising due to power thefts.

Water and Air Pollution by Talcher Thermal Power Station

2250. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that inhabitants of Talcher are suffering from various chest diseases due to the water and air pollution caused by Talcher Thermal Power Station; and

(b) whether NTPC has any action plan to check this pollution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) has the following two thermal power stations in Talcher area in Orissa:—

1. Talcher Super Thermal Power Station (2500 MW) (TSTPS) which is under operation since 1995; and

2. Talcher Thermal Power Station at Angul (460 MW 2110 MW) (TTPS) taken over by NTPC from Orissa State Electricity Board in June, 1995.

No specific cases of suffering from chest disease is reported due to air/ water pollution in areas where these stations are located. NTPC have taken various pollution control measures in TSTPS like provid- ing Electrostatic Precipitators (ESP) with 99.91% efficiency, Stack of 275 meter height to control SOx and NOx level, providing closed loop cooling water system for thermal pollution control, dust extrac- tion and dust suppression system in coal handling plant/coal stack yard, providing fully automatic neutralisation system for DM Plant effluent, and Sewage Treatment Plant for treatment of township and plant sewage, providing Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Stations at different locations to contain air quality etc. Further, Multi Lagoon ash pond with zero discharge is under operation in the area. Ecological Impact Monitoring is being done by NTPC through M/s National Remote Sensing Agency.

In regard to TTPS, immediately after taking over, NTPC took several steps in Stage-I units like repair of Air preheaters/soot blowers, chemical cleaning of Unit 1 and 2 and flue gas reconditioning which reduced the stack emission in Stage-I to 350-400 mg/NM3. NPTC has since finalised order on BHEL for retrofitting of additional ESPs in Stage-I Units. Additional ESPs have been retrofitted in Unit 5 and 6 of Stage-II units. The stack emission of these units is